

# TV Ruling Keeps Birchers Off List

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The Federal Communications Commission has served notice that the John Birch Society is not eligible to own an educational television station, it was disclosed yesterday.

FCC General Counsel Henry Geller said the Society would not qualify for one of the several hundred television channels reserved for noncommercial educational broadcasts because it is not an accredited educational institution.

For the same reason, he said, the Ford Foundation would not be eligible.

Geller replied in a letter last month to Sens. John O. Pastore (D-R.I.) and Ross Bass (D-Tenn.), who had asked

about FCC policy in this regard.

At a Senate Commerce Committee hearing, Bass was reported to have asked the FCC whether an educational television station could "brainwash" the community it serves by expounding certain philosophies under the guise of education.

The Birch Society was incorporated in Massachusetts as an educational organization but has not sought Federal tax exemption.

Geller said he knew of no plans by the Society to apply for an educational television license.